

SSCG3

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the United States

- SSCG3.c **Constitution.**
- Explain the **fundamental principles** upon which the United States Constitution is based including the rule of law, **popular sovereignty, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.**

The United States Constitution

Structure and Guiding Principles

Local, State, and National
Government

The United States Constitution

Quick Facts

- Signed into being on September 17, 1787 forming the basis for US Government.

- 3 Parts:
 - Preamble—Introduction; establishes purpose of US government
 - Articles—7 articles provide guidelines for how government will operate
 - Amendments—27 *changes* to the original document make Constitution a “living document”

What is a Principle?

- A principle is a basic rule that guides and influences thought or action...
- Principles guide our decision-making, thus keep us in order
- What principles do you live by and why?
- How do those principles affect your everyday actions?

American Principles

■ Where do Guiding US Principles Come From?

- (1) old US documents
- (2) philosophers
- (3) old world documents

■ The GOVT. follows these principles when making Laws & Decisions

6 Guiding Principles:

1. Popular Sovereignty
2. Federalism
3. Limited Government
4. Separation of Powers
5. Checks and Balances
6. Judicial Review

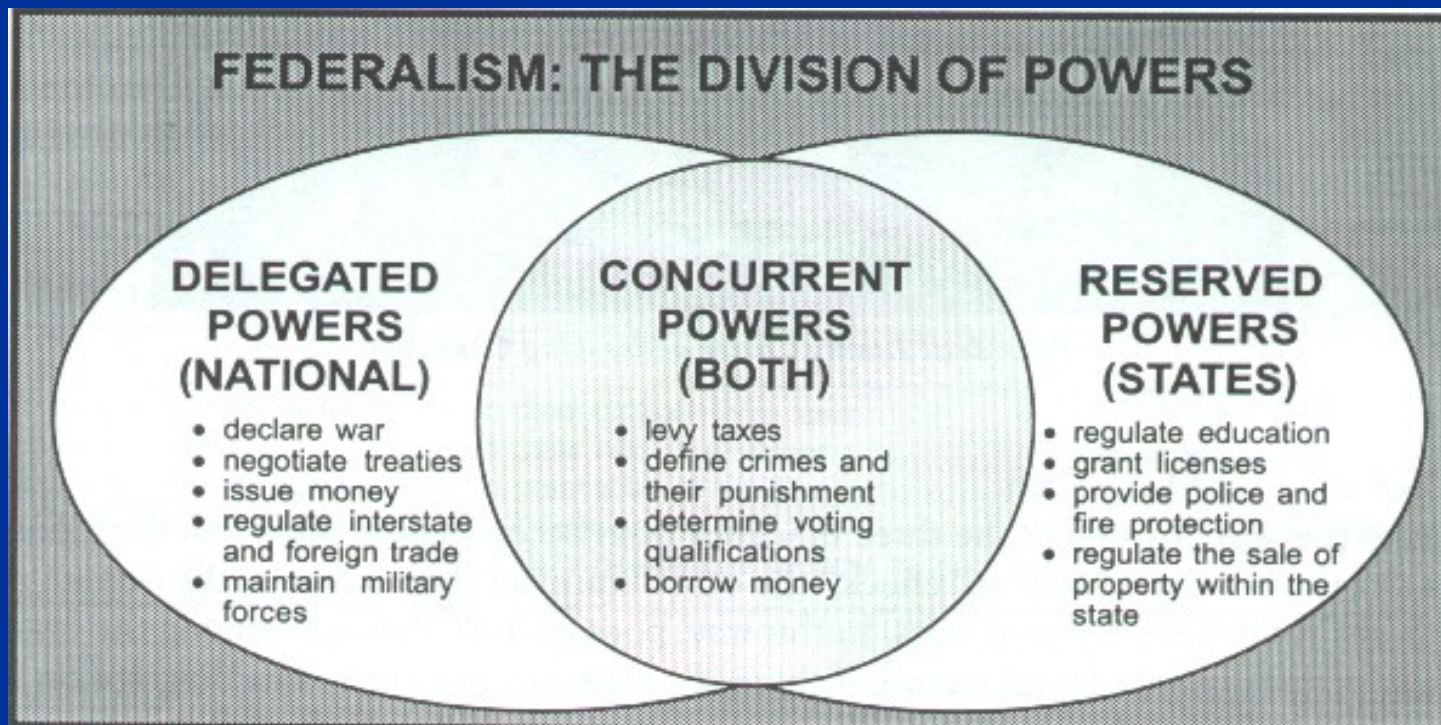
Popular Sovereignty



- People are source of govt. power
 - (1) **Popular** = “People”
 - (2) **Sovereignty** = “Power” or “Controller”
- **Example:**
 - elections
 - peaceful demonstrations

Federalism

- **Meaning:** power is divided between national (central), state, local govts.
 - Each level has own responsibilities
- **Example:**
 - Amendment Process
 - Federal Power = Prints Money
 - State Power = Driver's License

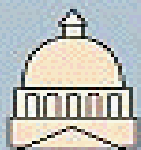


Powers of National Government



Separation of Powers

- The Powers of Government are divided into three Branches:
 - Legislative Branch → Makes Laws
 - Executive Branch → Enforces Laws
 - Judicial Branch → Interprets Laws



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Congress
House of Representatives;
Senate.

House and Senate can
veto each other's bills.

Congress approves presidential
nominations and controls the budget.
It can pass laws over the president's
veto and can impeach
the president and remove
him or her from office.

The president can veto
congressional
legislation.



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The President

Executive office of the president;
executive and cabinet depart-
ments; independent
government
agencies.

The Court can declare
laws unconstitutional.

The Senate confirms the president's
nominations. Congress can impeach
judges and remove them from office.

The president
nominates judges.

The Court can declare
presidential
acts unconstitutional.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Courts
Supreme Court;
Courts of Appeal;
District courts.

Definition: Each
branch of Govt has
some power over the
other two branches

Purpose: Prevent
any one branch from
having too much
power

Checks and Balances

Practicing Checks and Balances

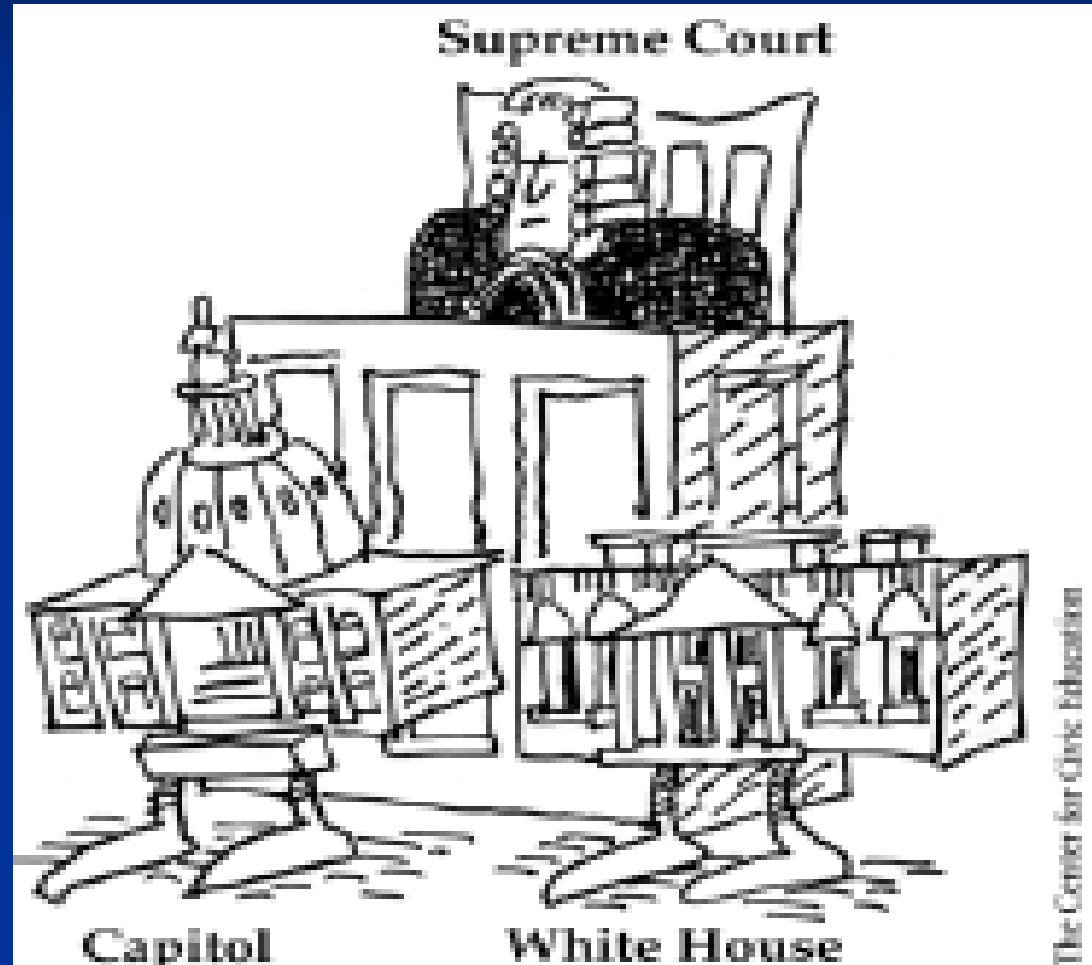
1. If Congress makes a law, what can the **President do** if he does not like the law?
2. If Congress does not think the President's veto was fair, what can the **Congress do**?
3. If a law or action is unlawful, which branch determines if the law or action is unconstitutional?

Judicial Review

- Courts decide if govt. acts violate constitution
- *Marbury v. Madison* established judicial review.

Example:

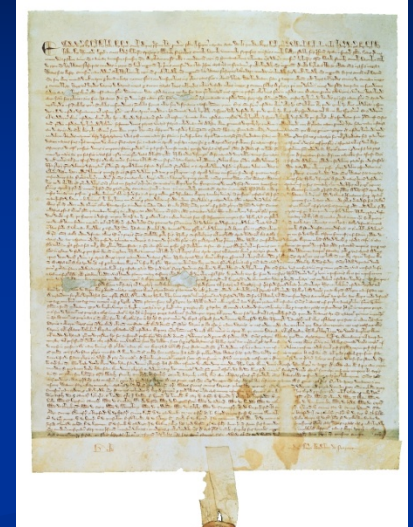
Brown v. Board of Ed. → Court stated that segregation was illegal in public places



Limited Government

Magna Carta

- Government Powers are limited to what is written in the Constitution
- Example: The police cannot search or seize your property without demonstrating cause and getting a warrant.



English Bill of Rights

Other Important Principles...

- Due Process—Govt must follow established procedures when dealing with citizens; your right to be treated fairly by the government.
- Rule of Law—NO ONE (not even the President) is above the law.
- Majority Rule
- Rights of Individuals/Equal Protection

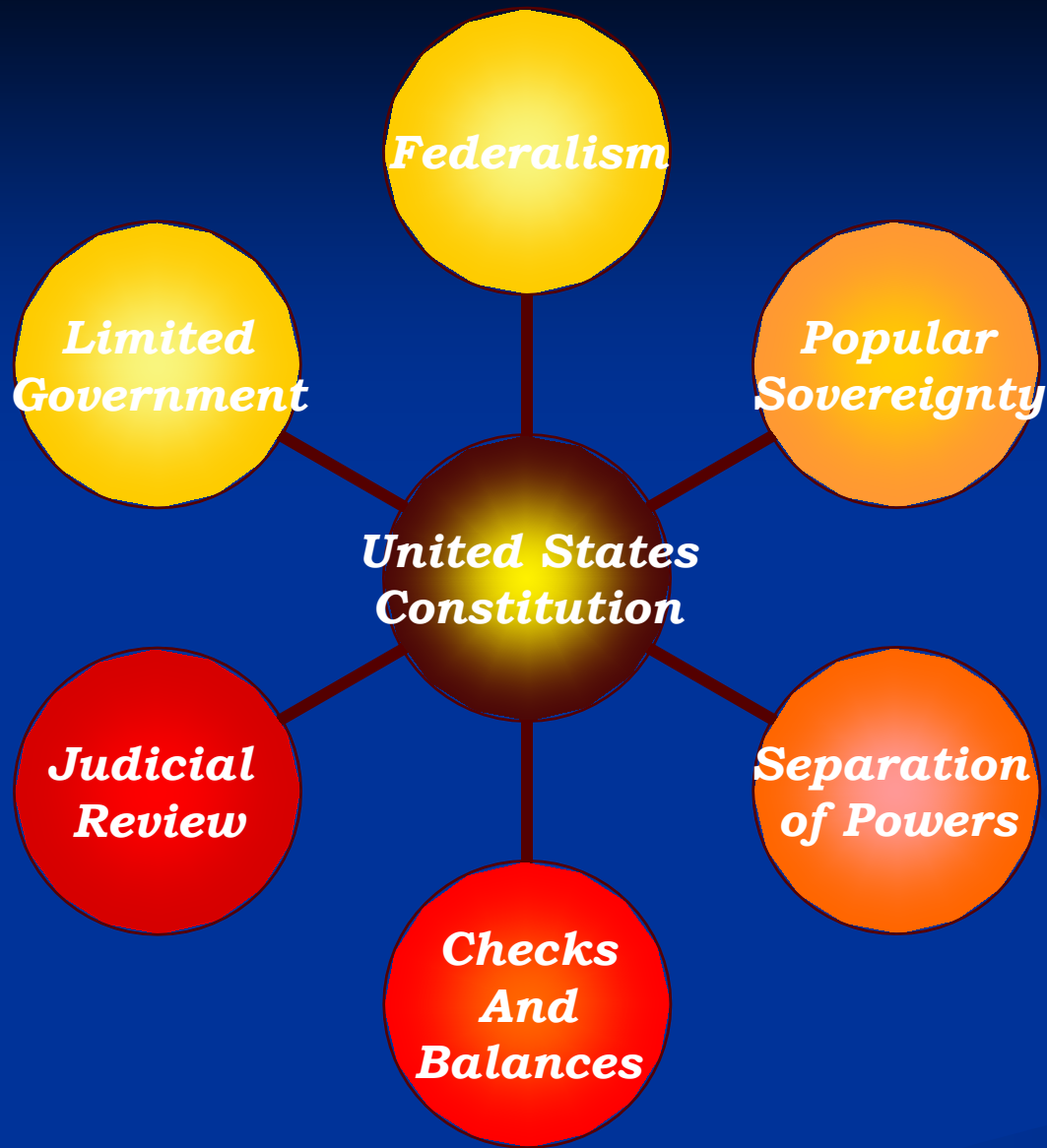
Identifying Constitutional Principles

- The President appointed a new Justice for the Supreme Court and the Senate will review his appointment next week.
- The people called a town meeting to debate construction of a new park.
- The President, the members of Congress, and the Justices of the Supreme Court pay taxes just like every citizen in the United States.
- The Tenth Amendment of the Constitution states that there are powers that belong to the states. In other parts of the Constitution, powers are given to the national government.
- The Constitution provides for legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

Putting it all together...

Citizens and Government in the United States share in a reciprocal relationship. While the power to rule is derived from the people, the government is bound by the Constitution to respect and guard the rights of those citizens.

Challenge: *In what ways do the Constitutional principles imbedded in our founding document ensure the people's rights will be protected?*



Learning Log:

How do each of these principles of the Constitution manifest themselves in your everyday lives?